THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Category-wise details of applications pending for telephone connections in Ahmedabad, Vadodra, Rajkot and Surat cities are given as below:

	OYT	NON-OYT		TOTAL
		Spl.	Genl.	
Ahmedabad	298	2846	28244	31388
Vadodra	923	764	14698	16385
Rajkot	8	5	2446	2459
Surat	2171	431	21491	24093

(c) The pending applications are likely to be cleared by the end of March, 1991 in respect of Ahmedabad, Vadodra and Surat and by the end of March, 1989 in respect of Rajkot

Telephone exchange in Nanded

1158. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new telephone exchange has been completed in Nanded (Maharashtra) and is about to be inaugurated;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has made some suggestions before inaugurating the exchange;

(d) if so, what are these suggestions; and

(e) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A 4000 lines crossbar exchange is going to be installed at Nanded. The equipment has been received at site.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) He suggested that electronic equipment may be allotted instead of crossbar equipment.

(e) The building is nearing completion and installation is likely to be taken up shortly.

Demand for telephone connections in Punjab

1159. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications pending for grant of telephone conections under different categories at Chandigarh and different district headquarters of Punjab as on 31st January, 1988; and

(b) what is the number of telephone connections likely to be provided during this year?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE):

(a) Information is given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 35]

(b) About 4000 telephone connections have already been provided from April, 1987 to January, 1988. About 1300 connections are likely to be given during February and March, 1988. District-wise details are given in the last column of Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 35]

STD facility in Punjab

1160. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: *Will the Minister of* COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) which of the Punjab towns are planned to be linked with STD during the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) which of the small towns in the State are being provided direct links to Chandigarh and other important business centres in the State?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Following towns of Punjab are proposed to be linked with STD network during the remaining period of 7th Plan:

Barnala, Batala, Faridkot, Fazilka, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Kotkapura, Kapurthala, Malerkotla, Mandigovindgarh, Moga, Phagwara, Ropar.

(b) Following small towns of Punjab are proposed to be provided direct links to Chandigarh and other important business centres progressively:

Amloh, Bhai Nihal Singhwale, Bhuchho, Guruharsahai, Gidderbaha, Jalalabad, Jaitu, Kartarpur, Makhu, Patran, Talwandi, Zira.

Introduction of electronic mail service

1161. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to introduce electronic mail service in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have decided to introduce Electronic Mail Service between selected cities.

Payment of bonus and gratuity to E.D. employees

1162. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a memorandum was submitted to Government by the JCA containing 13 demands of the ED employees; if so, which demands have been accepted by the Department so far;

(b) whether as per agreement reached with the JCA on 11th July, 1987, ED employees were to be paid bonus on the basis of actual emoluments drawn by them, but they have been paid on the monthly emoluments of Rs. 240/-;

(c) if so, what are the grounds for non-payment in accordance with the agreed formula; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that JCA was informed on 11th July, 1987 that approval of the Cabinet was awaited to grant service gratuity to ED employees at 16-1/2 times of the remuneration last drawn; if so, what is the outcome thereof?